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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMMIGRATION
WORKING COMMITTEE AT THE SECRETARIAT LEVEL

First Session
Santiago, Chile

REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION

1. The Committee met in Santiago, Chile, under the Chairmanship of Mr. H. J. Phillips, representing ECLA, during the week from October 16th to October 21st, and dealt with the attached agenda (ST/ECLA/C.1/1). The ILO was represented by Mr. S.D. Collett and Mr. J. Mendez; the FAO by Mr. D. Brossard and Mr. R. Etchats; and the IRO by Mr. C. Wendling. Dr. Raúl Prebisch, Executive Secretary of ECLA opened the first meeting of the Committee. Mr. Santa Cruz of ECLA assisted the Committee throughout its session, and Mr. Marquez, Chief of Research and members of his staff attended a number of the Committee's meetings.

2. The Committee papers prepared for the session were approved by the Committee as in ST/ECLA/C.1/2, ST/ECLA/C.1/3 and ST/ECLA/C.1/4.

3. The Committee examined drafts of chapter headings prepared by members of the Committee of the study of the relation between economic development and immigration, required under (a) of its terms of reference, and a combined working draft was approved (ST/ECLA/C.1/3/Add.2). The Committee discussed the time table for the preparation of the study and decided that it would try to divide its time equally between the general study and the pursuit of technical assistance aspects

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aspects of the Committee's work required under (b) of its terms of reference. It was thought that the completion of the general study would take a year and that it would not be possible to present the study to the 1951 session of ECLA, papers for which had to be completed by February. It was decided that the Committee would make a progress report to the 1951 session of ECLA which would show the state of the work of the general survey and also give an account of the Committee's activities in giving assistance to Governments under (b) of its terms of reference.

4. In connection with paper ST/ECLA/C.1/4 dealing with (b) of its terms of reference, the Committee spent some time considering means to be employed in determining the feasibility of projects. It was decided to prepare for the next Session a model list of questions needing answering in order to assess the economic prospects of immigration projects. It was thought that in addition to experience in the possession of members of the Committee there would generally be available locally, on an informal basis, expert sources of advice, national and international and Governmental and non-Governmental, which could be utilised. The question was discussed whether additional experts of the United Nations of Specialised Agencies could be co-opted if necessary from Headquarters at short notice. The position appeared different in the various Agencies. The I.L.O. under its expanded programme of technical assistance adopted as a result of the provision of funds by European Member States under their million dollar OEEC grant would be able to produce expert advice in their field at short notice, but it

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was not known whether experts could be co-opted for a short time through the medium of Headquarters Technical Assistance Funds and the machinery of the Technical Assistance Board. It was decided to enquire of Headquarters on this point. The views of Headquarters were in any event being awaited on the question raised in ST/ECLA/C.1/4 and this paper was, therefore, only approved provisionally.

5. Under item (b) of its terms of reference the Committee noted that its action was dependent upon requests from Governments and it was decided to follow up the official letter (ST/ECLA/C.1/4/Add.1) which had been despatched to Governments by informal contacts as appropriate. The Committee received in the course of its meeting its first request which was from Chile, and the Committee was invited for consultation by the Minister of Lands and Colonisation. The Committee also attended before the President of Chile at the latter's request, and valuable exchanges of view took place.

6. The Committee examined the reports on immigration in Brazil (E/CN.12/169/Add.1) in Chile (E/CN.12/169/Add.2) and in Venezuela (E/CN.12/169/Add.3) prepared earlier in the year by E.C.L.A. The Committee considered a number of suggestions and draft working papers submitted by individual members of the Committee regarding possibilities which might be pursued in those and other countries if requests from Governments were received. In view of the importance of timber in relation to immigration and to certain suggestions made at the Committee, it was decided to invite Mr. Terver

/of the F.A.O.

of the F.A.O. Commission on Forestry and Forest Products to attend the next session.

7. The Committee decided that its meetings will normally last a fortnight with an interval of a month between meetings. There will be four regular meetings in Santiago and four abroad during the year. Of the latter, two meetings will be held at the São Paulo office of the I.L.O. and two in countries from which invitations are received. The members of the Committee who are permanently stationed in Santiago will begin work on the first part of the general study. At each session of the Committee this work will be reviewed and revised. The Committee would need to be ready to travel at short notice to countries where their assistance was requested on specific projects. The Committee would maintain close contact, both formally and informally as appropriate with the Headquarters of the United Nations, including the Social Affairs Department, with the Headquarters of the Specialised Agencies having permanent status on the Committee, and also with the W.H.O., U.N.E.S.C.O. and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.